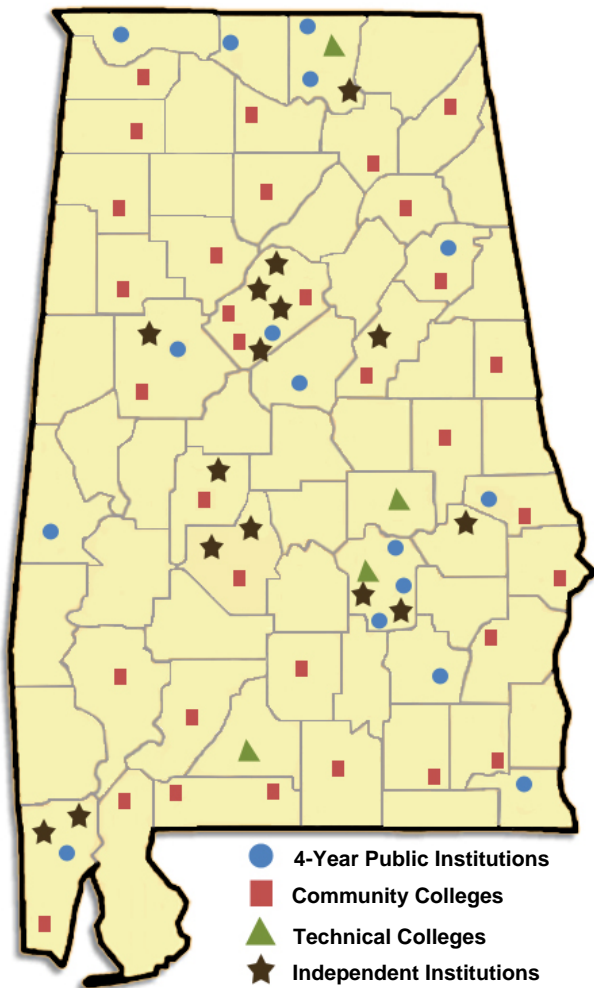


Alabama Institutions



January 2008

Commission Legislative Agenda Items

- *Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP)*
- *PK-20 Initiative*
- *Private School Licensure*

Executive Director

Gregory G. Fitch, PhD

Commission Members

J. R. Brooks, Chairman, Huntsville, At Large

Thomas P. Davis, Vice-Chair, Tuscaloosa, 7th District

Ralph Buffkin, Mobile, 1st District

Jeff Coleman, Dothan, At Large

Andrew G. Linn, Jr., Birmingham, 6th District

Johnnie J. McDougald, Opelika, 3rd District

William E. Powell, III, Montgomery, 2nd District

Steve Shaw, Birmingham, At Large

Missy Ming Smith, Huntsville, 5th District

Roberta O. Watts, Gadsden, 4th District

Ronald W. Wise, Montgomery, At Large

*One appointment to be determined

ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION



2008 Legislative Agenda

100 North Union Street
P.O. Box 302000
Montgomery, AL 36104

1-800-960-7773
334-242-0268
www.ache.alabama.gov

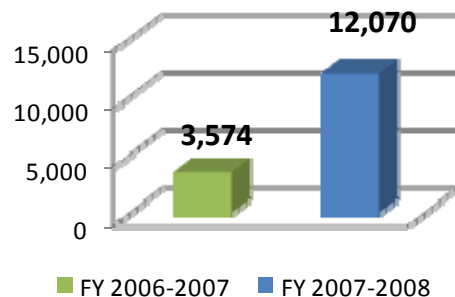
ASAP

The goal of the Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP) is to provide financial assistance to Alabama residents for postsecondary education in the State of Alabama. ASAP is specifically designed to serve students in financial need. It has allowed more first-generation students to enter college and remain in school because it is a consistent source of support.

Thanks to the Alabama State Legislature, the amount of ASAP appropriations received from 2006-07 to 2007-08 increased by \$2.7 million, thereby providing a true benefit to the citizens of Alabama.

- ◇ As a result of the Knight vs. Alabama settlement, an extra \$10 million was awarded as a one-time commitment to the ASAP program. The available funds are being distributed to qualifying students at Alabama two-year and four-year institutions.
- ◇ We are requesting an additional \$4.4 million to continue the awards after the Knight vs. Alabama funds have been distributed.

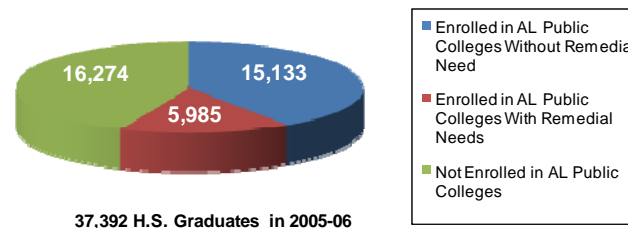
Alabama Student Assistance Program Total Number of Students Served



PK-20 Initiative

- ◇ The PK-20 movement serves several purposes:
 - Alignment of high school curriculum and college / university admissions
 - Increased collaboration between business and industry, work-force development, public and private colleges and universities, and the K-12 systems
 - Enhanced data systems to provide information to policymakers for planning and performance purposes
 - Automated sharing of high school transcript between high schools and colleges / universities
 - Statewide PK-20 councils to facilitate and promote educational activities throughout the state
 - Improved communication between ACHE and the State Board of Education

Tracking High School Graduates Into Higher Education



- ◇ The end result of the PK-20 initiative includes:
 - More informed decisions and budgeting based on uniform data
 - Businesses and industries benefit since students are better prepared to succeed in the work place
 - Early student outreach programs
 - Reduction in need for remediation services
 - More students stay in school and graduate
 - Improved student welfare
 - Extensive professional development for teachers and school administrators

Private School Licensure *

We are seeking to amend the current Private School Licensure Program and services for post-secondary proprietary schools.



Please consider what is best for Alabama's citizens.

The current procedure divides the approval process between the Alabama Department of Post-secondary Education and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE), limiting its effectiveness and making it difficult to review and monitor educational institutions. If state review is not enforced, diploma mills, promising quick and easy degrees, will continue to circumvent the review process by seeking and obtaining incorporated status in order to use their state incorporation to attract students online from Alabama and the world. Diplomas become available for a fee with little or no work.

As other states tighten their restrictions, Alabama is becoming more of a target for these unscrupulous businesses. In a recent national news article, Alabama was labeled one of the "Seven Sorry Sister" states in laws and regulations dealing with diploma mills.

Centralized oversight at ACHE would be more efficient and effective in prohibiting diploma mills from operating without a state review. Without this oversight, diploma mills will continue to flourish in Alabama. Transfer is supported by the Board for Post-secondary Education.

*** Private Postsecondary Proprietary School Licensure Program, Alabama Code 16-46-1 et. seq. (1975) and 16-5-10 (14) ACHE Additional Responsibilities.**